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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gallagher on 11/6/08.

In the abstract line 2 "Sample support" has been deleted and in the last line of the abstract "(Fig.1)" has been deleted.

On page 17 of the original disclosure after line 6 "Brief Description of the Drawings" has been added.

In claim 24 line 6 "at least" has been changed to --more than--, in lines 8-9 "extended at an angular orientation" has been changed to --which forms an angle with respect-- and in lines 13-14 both occurrences of "and/or a" have been changed to --and/or comprising a--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In addition to the remarks of record and the 3/28/06 reasons for allowance, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed sample support comprising a vent and a valve on teach channel wherein the valve comprises a "burst film" and/or a "hydrophobic insert" and/or a "hydrophobic inner wall." The 11/6/08 amendments were made to clarify the instant invention in light of the original disclosure.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

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preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lyle A. Alexander whose telephone number is 571-272-1254. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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